

Pectoral Region – Dissection

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Step 1: Incisions

- Make a **longitudinal midline incision** from the **suprasternal notch to the xiphoid process**.
- Make **transverse incisions** along the clavicle and along the costal margin.
- Reflect the skin laterally towards the axilla to expose the superficial fascia.

Step 2: Superficial Fascia

- Contains:
 - **Breast** and its structures.
 - **Superficial veins** (thoracoepigastric vein, branches of cephalic and basilic veins).
 - **Cutaneous nerves** (branches of supraclavicular nerves, anterior and lateral cutaneous branches of intercostal nerves).
- Carefully dissect and preserve the veins and nerves.

Step 3: Deep Fascia

- Beneath superficial fascia lies the **pectoral fascia**, covering the **pectoralis major** muscle.

- Laterally, thickens to form **axillary fascia**.
- At upper part, attaches to clavicle and sternum.

Step 4: Pectoralis Major

- Identify and clean **pectoralis major** muscle.
- Note its attachments:
 - Clavicle, sternum, upper 6 costal cartilages ? lateral lip of bicipital groove of humerus.
- Nerve supply: **medial and lateral pectoral nerves**.
- Reflect pectoralis major by cutting near its origin and turning it laterally.
- Observe **pectoral fascia** and underlying **clavipectoral fascia**.

Step 5: Pectoralis Minor

- Lies beneath pectoralis major.
- Attachments: ribs 3–5 ? coracoid process of scapula.
- Nerve supply: **medial pectoral nerve**.
- Important landmark: **divides axillary artery into 3 parts**.
- Note its relation to clavipectoral fascia.

Step 6: Subclavius

- Small muscle beneath clavicle.
- Extends from 1st rib and costal cartilage ? subclavian groove of clavicle.
- Function: stabilizes clavicle; protects subclavian vessels.

Step 7: Clavipectoral Fascia

- Strong fascia between clavicle and axilla, enclosing subclavius and pectoralis minor.
- Pierced by:
 - **Cephalic vein.**
 - **Thoracoacromial artery and vein.**
 - **Lymphatics.**
 - **Lateral pectoral nerve.**

Step 8: Serratus Anterior

- Expose at lateral part of chest wall.
- Attachments: upper 8–9 ribs ? medial border of scapula.
- Nerve supply: **long thoracic nerve.**
- Clinical: paralysis ? **winged scapula.**

Key Structures Observed in Dissection

- **Muscles:** pectoralis major, pectoralis minor, subclavius, serratus anterior.
- **Fasciae:** pectoral fascia, clavipectoral fascia.
- **Vessels:** thoracoacromial artery and its branches, cephalic vein.
- **Nerves:** medial and lateral pectoral nerves, long thoracic nerve.
- **Breast:** in superficial fascia.

Clinical Importance

- Dissection helps demonstrate surgical landmarks:
 - **Pectoralis minor** as a guide for axillary artery division.
 - **Cephalic vein in deltopectoral groove** ? site for central line/venous cutdown.
 - **Clavipectoral fascia piercings** ? relevant in surgical approaches.
- Knowledge essential for breast and axillary surgeries.